

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**

**USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office**

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**Weather** Frost damage continued to be a concern this week as thirty-two out of forty-three stations reported sub-freezing temperatures. Thirty-eight stations reported lower than normal average temperatures, and only eleven reported more than two growing degree days. Although all but two stations received measurable rainfall this week, thirty-two remained below normal for cumulative seasonal precipitation. High temperatures ranged from 71 degrees in Roseburg, down to 52 degrees in Joseph. Lows ranged from 5 degrees in Christmas Valley, up to 39 degrees in Crescent City. High winds and dry conditions in Klamath County continued to cause dust storms throughout the week.

**Field Crops:** Willamette Valley rains damaged field crops where drainage was poor. When weather permitted, spring fertilizer was applied. Alfalfa growth started to show in Wasco County. Spring planting was ahead of schedule, but field work slowed with wet, cold weather. In Eastern Oregon, some fields had to be reseeded due to nutrient loss to competing weeds. Wheat growers in western counties were bothered by stripe rust and other fungi.

**Vegetables:** This week there was very little field work due to cold temperatures and wet conditions. Some growers in Jackson and Yamhill counties were able to plant early cabbage, garlic, peas and onions.

**Fruits and Nuts** Almost all fruit was in some stage of bloom this week. Freezing temperatures and recent rainfall were putting pressure on some of the fruit trees in multiple counties. Heavy rains and hail were an issue with cherries in Benton, Linn, and Lane counties. Pollination conditions were not good in Douglas, Washington, and Wasco counties. Additionally, winter damage from December has resulted in reports that caneberries were not doing very well either.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Greenhouses and nurseries continue to be busy with spring starts. Nurseries were transplanting shrubs and trees into containers.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Spring calving and lambing continued. Livestock were being moved onto pastures, but still required supplemental feed. Temperatures were too cool for much vegetative growth this past week.

**Soil Moisture - Week Ending 04/11/10**

	<b>Very short</b>	<b>Short</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	0	11	60	29
Subsoil	1	19	57	23

**Crop Progress - Week Ending 04/11/10**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>This week</b>	<b>Last week</b>	<b>Last year</b>	<b>5 year average</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	79	53	57	64
Barley emerged	39	19	38	38
Spring wheat planted	87	76	44	67
Spring wheat emerged	48	31	6	29
Days suitable for fieldwork	3.9	3.0	4.6	4.7

**Crop Condition - Week Ending 04/11/10**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	0	4	41	45	10
Range and pasture	2	18	27	49	4

## Western Oregon

**BENTON/LANE/LINN:** Poorly drained fields were very wet, damaging winter wheat planted on marginal ground. Septoria was very bad on all wheat and some stripe rust was discovered on winter wheat as well. No-till wheat seemed to have more issues with hair pinning and poor emergence this year than in years past. Freezing temperatures on Thursday (4/8) evening and early Friday affected some of the fruit trees. Heavy rains and hail were an issue with cherries. Wet spring conditions persisted this week in the South Willamette Valley, preventing field work. Spring fertilizer and broadleaf applications were put on hold until field conditions improve. Some frost in mornings on tree fruits. Soil was very wet. Farmers markets were slow over the weekend, needing more sun. Cherries and pears were in full bloom and peaches were nearly done blooming. Apples were showing pink.

**COLUMBIA:** Pastures were generally poor or very poor. The recent rainfall may increase spring disease pressure in nurseries and farms with fruit.

**CURRY:** Intermittent rain and sun has created almost optimal forage growth.

**DOUGLAS:** Rain continued with about 1.5 to 2 inches during the week. Soils were too wet for field work. Some people needing to spray fungicides will try to get into fields this coming week. Apples were getting into full bloom. Cherries and pears were finishing pollination. Pollination conditions were not good with most tree fruit, but there were enough dry days to get some fruit set.

**JACKSON:** A couple of warm spring-like days this week did allow for some field work to be accomplished. Pastures and hay fields were being fertilized. Some spring grain planting was done as weather permitted. Almost all fruit was in some stage of bloom. Night time temperatures have been much too cold for fruit in bloom. Frost protection activity was ongoing, and wind machines were turned on. Early vegetables were being planted: peas, onions, and early cabbage. Greenhouses and nurseries were very busy with spring starts. Some livestock was out on pastures, but with some supplemental feed. Lots of spring calves were out with mothers in the fields, also lots of baby lambs. It was a cold and cloudy week, but not much rain. The County was still more

than four inches short of normal rainfall. Without more rain, irrigation seasons will be short. Friday morning the temperature dipped into the upper twenties on the Valley floor.

**JOSEPHINE:** Weather varied: wind, snow, rain, sun, fog. One morning was 27 degrees, all others in the 30s. Total precipitation for the week was two inches, mostly snow. It was typical weather for April. Daytime temperatures were mild, ranging from 50-60 degrees which made for nicer working conditions outside. Farmers may even be able to mow in lower sections this week. Some branches were lost this week to heavy snow. There were fruit frost warnings for two days of the week.

**MARION:** There was plenty of rain this week. Grass seed crops grew rapidly, and winter wheat was jointing. Most fertilizing for field crops was completed. Crops were a couple weeks earlier than normal.

**WASHINGTON:** All fall 2009 newly seeded grass crops did not fair well over the winter, and neither did fall seeded small grain crops. Winter damage experienced in December has resulted in reports from growers that caneberries are not doing very well. There could be some pollination problems due to untimely rains and cold weather. There was weed control activity for wheat. Alfalfa and clover were growing well. It was still too early for vegetables. Nurseries were digging and balling shrubs and trees into containers. Livestock range and pasture were wet and soggy.

**YAMHILL:** Cool wet weather continued to hamper the application of cover sprays on tree fruits and nuts. This week there were four days of rain showers and 3 days without precipitation. Apples, cherries and some pears were blooming, but heavy rains, hail and wind have not been friendly to the tree fruit in bloom. Several brave homeowners were prepping and planting onions and garlic. Cooler temperatures have kept the bees from flying as well. Expect the crops to be spotty just as the storms have been this spring. Dry weather was needed for spring planting but the County as a whole was down about 40 percent for the water year. Last year was also very dry at about 55 percent of normal for the year, so ground water did not get replenished. There was a lot of concern about what to plant given the current economic situation of most crops.

## Eastern Oregon

**GILLIAM:** Sub-freezing mornings at higher elevations have slowed crop development.

**GRANT:** It was too cold for any appreciable growth on pasture or range.

**HARNEY:** Temperatures were unseasonably cool through the week. Conditions were breezy with trace to measurable amounts of precipitation received intermittently throughout most of the County. Some cattle operations were still calving and some producers were turning out on rangeland pastures.

**HOOD RIVER:** Variable weather conditions prevailed through much of the week. Minimum temperatures dipped into critical ranges for developing fruit flower buds on several nights, with widespread frost protection on April 10. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear at about 50 percent open flowers; Red Delicious apple at tight cluster to first pink (WSU stages 4 & 5); Bing cherry at first white to first bloom (WSU stages 6 & 7).

**KLAMATH:** There was some precipitation during the week, including some snow, and temperatures were unseasonably cold. Daytime highs were in the upper 30s. There was still no word on irrigation water deliveries. Spring work was underway, with some limited irrigation from wells. High winds and blowing dust continued throughout the week.

**MALHEUR:** Temperatures were still below normal with a few scattered showers. Grass was growing slower than normal. Early planting continued.

**SHERMAN:** Mixture of typical spring weather all week: brilliantly sunny days with cold winds, snow flurries, hail, rain and dry spells. Many spray operations were delayed. Cold weather has caused some spray damage and crop setback from earlier spray applications. Crop looks to recover in most cases but some reseeding was needed where chemicals failed to work on pest weeds. Reseeding was nearing completion and most acres reserved for spring planting were at least started.

**UNION/BAKER:** There was rain, snow, sleet, hail and occasional patches of sunshine. Temperatures ranged from 15 degrees to 60 degrees.

**WALLOWA:** Snow and rain this week have helped with soil moisture and snow pack percentages, which were in the low 70 percents.

**WASCO:** Cold spring weather prevailed all week. Snow fell on Thursday over most of the farm land. Winter wheat was looking quite good and slowly growing. Weed spraying started on both no-till stubble and wheat crops. Alfalfa growth started to show. Most fruit trees around The Dalles were starting to bloom. Bee activity was slow in pollinated cherry trees. Frost fans were needed in cherry orchards. Cattle were starting to feed on pasture grasses, but hay feeding was still needed to give pasture grasses a chance to develop. Sweet cherries were 20 percent to 50 percent in bloom. This year the bloom is much lighter than last year. The last three days have had good pollination weather, but there was also some frost damage. Damage reports ranged from 0 percent to 30 percent flower bud mortality.

**Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: April 11, 2010 (as of 11:00 am) <sup>1</sup>**

Station	Air temperature <sup>2</sup>				Growing degree days <sup>3</sup>		Last week precip. <sup>4</sup>			Season cum. precipitation <sup>5</sup>			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Total	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Total inches	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Days <sup>7</sup>	Total inches	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Pct. normal	Days <sup>7</sup>
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	37	63	48	+0	3	-4	1.70	0.50	6	62.53	6.68	112	137
Bandon <sup>8</sup>	33	58	46	-3	2	-5	0.83	-0.34	6	45.75	-5.08	90	149
Crescent City	39	56	48	-2	1	-20	2.62	1.36	5	50.44	-6.66	88	123
Florence	31	65	46	-3	1	-6	2.08	0.66	4	68.14	3.05	105	124
North Bend	32	59	46	-3	1	-9	1.56	0.32	3	46.90	-7.89	86	124
Tillamook	32	64	48	+2	6	-1	1.90	0.31	6	51.06	-23.13	69	130
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Aurora <sup>8</sup>	35	65	48	-1	6	-8	0.38	-0.32	4	33.83	-0.12	100	126
Corvallis	34	62	47	-2	2	-12	1.15	0.48	5	34.76	-1.92	95	142
Detroit Lake <sup>8</sup>	30	60	43	+1	-	-5	2.10	0.96	5	65.15	7.82	114	129
Eugene	29	66	46	-4	3	-11	1.17	0.34	4	31.64	-10.81	75	115
Hillsboro	32	62	46	-3	3	-11	0.55	-0.03	5	28.93	-2.83	91	118
McMinnville	34	64	47	-3	3	-11	0.87	0.19	4	21.67	-15.98	58	101
Portland	34	64	48	-3	5	-10	0.45	-0.16	5	25.69	-3.94	87	133
Salem	33	65	48	+0	2	-10	0.71	0.08	4	34.85	1.62	105	121
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	28	70	46	-7	4	-22	0.36	-0.13	3	22.43	-5.20	81	111
Medford	27	70	47	-4	2	-19	0.01	-0.27	1	10.04	-5.78	63	74
Roseburg	31	71	47	-4	4	-17	0.94	0.35	4	24.18	-3.89	86	118
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	22	62	39	-5	-	-7	0.18	-0.10	2	10.89	1.00	110	78
Echo <sup>8</sup>	26	65	47	-4	1	-19	0.04	-0.17	2	6.05	-0.81	88	71
Heppner	25	65	43	-4	2	-10	0.21	-0.11	2	7.14	-2.59	73	63
Hermiston	25	66	48	-2	4	-16	0.02	-0.19	2	6.09	-0.77	89	58
Madras <sup>8</sup>	21	65	41	-5	-	-14	0.05	-0.16	1	6.21	-1.30	83	82
Moro	26	59	42	-4	-	-7	0.36	0.15	3	10.58	2.05	124	71
Parkdale <sup>8</sup>	27	60	41	-7	-	-14	0.80	0.37	5	31.53	4.11	115	122
Pendleton	24	65	45	-4	-	-16	0.18	-0.10	3	7.51	-1.40	84	70
Prairie City <sup>8</sup>	21	65	41	-5	-	-14	0.05	-0.16	1	6.21	-1.30	83	82
The Dalles	28	67	48	+2	7	-3	0.04	-0.17	3	10.11	0.11	101	81
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Agency Lake <sup>8</sup>	19	59	37	-4	-	-5	0.05	-0.17	2	8.74	-4.01	69	73
Bend	18	64	37	-6	-	-7	0.09	-0.05	1	7.97	-0.65	92	29
Burns	17	59	37	-4	-	-7	0.07	-0.07	3	7.78	1.08	116	77
Christmas Valley <sup>8</sup>	5	61	35	-10	-	-11	0.05	-0.11	4	3.26	-5.62	37	68
Klamath Falls	12	60	37	-6	-	-7	0.03	-0.18	1	4.25	-6.33	40	62
Klamath Falls <sup>8</sup>	15	62	37	-6	-	-7	0.04	-0.17	2	5.34	-5.24	50	74
Lakeview	15	57	36	-6	-	-7	0.04	-0.24	2	6.36	-5.02	56	81
Lorella <sup>8</sup>	14	61	37	-7	-	-7	0.03	-0.18	2	5.79	-4.79	55	71
Redmond	12	67	38	-5	-	-7	-	-0.14	-	4.13	-1.64	72	54
Worden <sup>8</sup>	17	62	38	-6	-	-7	-	-0.21	-	4.84	-5.74	46	62
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	15	62	38	-6	-	-7	0.07	-0.08	3	4.56	-1.60	74	65
Joseph	16	52	34	-5	-	-4	0.38	-0.04	5	7.70	-10.30	43	64
La Grande	21	64	42	-3	2	-8	0.20	-0.15	4	5.56	-6.43	46	59
Union	22	58	40	-5	-	-7	0.67	0.39	2	7.57	-0.66	92	59
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	20	60	43	-7	-	-20	0.03	-0.11	2	7.05	-0.16	98	62
Rome	13	60	40	-6	-	-9	0.04	-0.12	1	6.50	1.49	130	57

<sup>1</sup> Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2010: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

<sup>2</sup> Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>3</sup> Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>4</sup> Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

<sup>5</sup> Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2009.

<sup>6</sup> DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normal period).

<sup>7</sup> Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

<sup>8</sup> Agri-Met weather stations.